

Russian Wolfhounds Prove Popular at the Big Show

Queen Alexandra Responsible for Interest Shown in This Breed of Dogs

Dog Show Judges

By J. S. Mitchell

Russian wolfhounds, or what Queen Alexandra properly termed Borzoi, are now the most picturesque class of dogs benched in modern shows. For many years they have been the leading attraction at the annual exhibition of the Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden, which opens on Wednesday, and, if anything, the breed will be heavier this year than ever.

To place sketches of a Russian wolfhound of fifty years ago, some of which are still extant, beside the photo of Champion Nadmen, for example, would easily demonstrate that they are two totally different animals in size, shape, coat, head markings and other points. Another feature, which is clearly brought out in that the present day wolfhound is a cross between the Irish wolfhound and the Scottish deerhound. Nadmen possesses the terrific gripping jaws and long head of the wolfdog, while the body bears all the marks of the lithe, powerful deerhound.

Old Dog Much Smaller

The old Russian wolfhound was much smaller, shorter of body and with a head that meant cowardice, as the jaws were weak, with a needle-pointed snout. When used in the chasing of the wolves in Russia the old dog was found to be lacking in courage and had not strength enough to tackle the wolves in the open.

What brought the Borzoi to the front, both here and in England, was the patronage of Queen Alexandra. She took a great fancy to the dog and owned a string of fine specimens of the breed. When she took her daily walks around the royal grounds at Windsor she was all the time accompanied by one and sometimes two of these great dogs. Of course, when the Queen set the pace, a lot of society women were bound to imitate her, and that was the fact which chiefly accounted for the popularity of the Borzoi. At one time mostly all the crack dogs of this class came here from England, but now it is quite different, for there are a number of kennels all over the United States breeding tiptop exhibition dogs.

Champion Nadmen was developed at the Delaware Valley Farms, Titusville, N. J., where Manager John F. Crangle houses the largest kennel of wolfhounds in America. It is a historic site, too, where Crangle holds forth, for it was on that identical spot that from 1902 to 1905, he also coached the Bronxmen in 1907, and turned out a combination that was nearly as good as the team that won the collegiate championship of the East in 1909.

Jack Coffey, for a while with the Boston Nationals, and later on with Denver, Chris Egan and Chris Mahoney were some of the stars on this team. Kane is popular with the older Maroon athletic advisers, who advocated his selection. Like his predecessor, Frank Gargan, he was drilled under the tutelage of Frank Smith, the old Princeton player, who was coach of the baseball and football teams a decade ago, and who has acted in an advisory capacity in late years.

Jim Robertson, a classmate of Kane's, coached the 14 nine. The appointment of Kane, who is a civil engineer in this city, is in accordance with the graduate policy that has generally been followed for the last few years. The new coach will labor under the handicap that confronts most collegiate coaches this season. Besides being bereft of veteran material, he will have to do without the services of several "prep" stars who would normally be in the freshman class, but who are now with their collegiate brothers in the ambulance corps.

Before Kane had been appointed coach, the first call for baseball candidates had been posted. The aspirants for positions on the Maroon nine will report in the gymnasium to-morrow afternoon at 3 p. m., where they will meet the new coach. The battery candidates will probably receive the most attention for the next two weeks. Daily practice in the gymnasium will be the order until milder weather permits outdoor work. In response to the plea of Joseph Kinsley, the manager, a fair squad is expected to report, and a fair battle is predicted for the positions.

Curious Representatives

Included in this vast array are some curious representatives of dogdom, and they are of all shapes, sizes and weights, from the great, thundering St. Bernard, usually around 200 pounds, to the wee Chihuahua, about the size of an ordinary rat and weighing less than three pounds. Very often these little dogs are smaller, and their owners have been known to hide them inside their mufflers traveling about from place to place.

But of all the oddly constructed canines billed for the show the strangest is an Alaskan Eskimo dog named Wolf, and the Queen Alexandra Mabel F. Rose. The dog's most notable peculiarity is that he has double ears, giving him the faculty of being able to hear the howling of a wolf miles away, and at night when he is sleeping he is buried in the snow the double flap of his ears will guard the inner drum of the ear from the cold. These dogs are most valuable to the inhabitants of the Klondike and other snowbound regions in hauling sleds and fighting off wolves whenever the opportunity offers.

Of the long list of breeds the Boston Terrier, a native product, leads the way with a total of 137 dogs, contributing no less than 200 entries. Foremost among the lot are Higball Sensation and Sonnie Punch, the latter said by experts to be the best type ever shown before the public. He is owned by Walter H. York, of Haverhill, Mass. This season he won at the Boston specialty show, and was placed as the best dog at the Worcester and Lowell, Higball Sensation not only five points more to make him a champion.

The St. Bernards, always the great feature of the show, are expected to bring about the hot notch center of the exhibit. Colonel Jack Ruppert has entered a string of fifteen, thirty-eight entries, and among them Oh Boy, the novice dog, shown for the first time, which is expected to do wonderful things, and there is Champion Boy Blue, the great winner of last year. Just now there is a sort of remembrance among the fanciers that Colonel Ruppert's cracks are not going to have matters their own way this time, for Miss Caroline B. Trask, of San Francisco, is coming all the way with a pair to try her luck.

A Consistent Winner

One is a dog named Crowwood Ben Barry, and he has won wherever shown, and the bitch is Mow. They will figure with the judges nobody can now tell, but a remark yesterday that Miss Trask wasn't bringing her dogs 3,500 miles on any haphazard game, and that she was well aware what she had to face in Colonel Ruppert's string.

The toy breeds have shown a grand entry list, especially the Pekingese, which will be made more attractive this time by the appearance of Phantom of Ashcroft, for which Eldridge Gerry Snow recently paid the record price of \$6,000.

Aviator Hurt in South Was Noted as Athlete

James Ryan, who was mentioned in the dispatches as being hurt in an airplane flight at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Tex., yesterday, was formerly a prominent athlete at St. John's Prep, Brooklyn, in which borough he lived.

Ryan was equally good at sprinting and clearing the hurdles, and at one time was the 220-yard Metropolitan Association low hurdle champion. He also was Co. Catharine's All-Ireland football schoolboy sprint title holder. Ryan represented the Knights of St. Antony, of Brooklyn, in open competition.

THE dog in the picture is the celebrated Russian wolfhound, Champion Nadmen, owned by John L. Kuser, of the Delaware Valley Farms, of Titusville, N. J., and will be shown the four last days this week in the annual show of the Westminster Kennel Club, at Madison Square Garden. Reading from left to right the three young women are Miss Allison Worth, Miss Eileen Percy and Miss Diana Allen. Nadmen is a dog of marvellous strength and said by Manager Crangle, of the Delaware Valley Farm Kennels, to be able "to tear to pieces half a dozen wolves single-handed." An own brother of this dog is said to be able to jump twelve feet high, and is down for an exhibition of high jumping during the show.



Clocking 'Em Along the Sport Trail

By Louis Lee Arms

Why Sign Tyrus Cobb?

Tyrus Raymond Cobb to become a Yankee sounds like some of our best February baseball fiction. The evidence in the case is (from a baseball reporter's viewpoint) that Mr. Miller Huggins is suspiciously incoherent when questioned about the matter; that he has been seen in conference with Frank Navin, president of the Tigers, and that the Yankees need an outfielder—three of them, if possible. Nothing more.

Presuming there is an actual possibility of obtaining the Jewel of Georgia, it is doubtful if it would pay in the long run. If Huggins wants to make a flash for one season, Cobb might make it for him. If the mite manager seriously proposes to build a ball team into a cohesive unit that always will be in the fight—as Mack constructed the Athletics—the percentage is against him if he takes over Cobb.

Tyrus Raymond Cobb occupies an especial niche in baseball. He is bigger than any team he plays with; yet his uncommon ability is not great enough to successfully combat the finest thing about pennant-winning teams, which is balance.

Those who attempt even a superficial analysis of Detroit's play must reach a hasty conclusion that Cobb plays pretty much his own game and lets the rest of his team go hang. He is not, in other words, amenable to team play, and hasn't been for years. He is the "gate" attraction with the Tigers, the biggest single card in all of baseball, and he is aware of the fact, which is natural. Cobb has created record upon record. When he is in pursuit of a new mark team play has been sacrificed to the fires of personal ambition and Hughie Jennings has been made to look like a fearfully inadequate manager.

Perhaps a relevant question is whether Cobb has made Jennings seem like a bloomer as a manager, or is Jennings normally lacking in that capacity? Jennings seems to be a deficient judge of pitching and one who is utterly unacquainted with the precepts of team play. Detroit's game for years has been: Bush get on, and Cobb, Crawford and Veach "hit him around." If they, in addition, hit themselves around, so much the better. But where finesse has meant the difference between winning and losing ball the Red Sox, White Sox or old Athletics usually could be counted upon to outguess the Tigers.

Catering to Cobb's Whims

As Cobb became more and more the star of the Tigers, those who have played with him say, Jennings was forced to cater to his whims and prejudices to keep peace in the family. In the early days, when the Junglers grabbed off three pennants, Cobb was one of several terrific hitting batsmen who kept his team in the van. But he was not THE star then—as he has been since. And it is more or less relevant that since he has been THE star the Tigers have never got any place.

It is perhaps unfair to blame this on Cobb. Certainly if all of Jennings's players had been as efficient as he Detroit would win nothing but pennants. On the other hand, there are many who believe the Tigers would have gone farther if Cobb's play had been "regulated." Perhaps Miller Huggins would find ways of making Cobb more valuable to his team than Jennings has been able to.

After fourteen years of preeminence during which all of his desires have been gratified, and during which he has not figured as a cog in team work, as Eddie Collins and other stars have, we doubt if he would be of permanent value to the Yankees in so far as building them up is concerned. At first he would be a curiosity, that would pay big at the gate; then a commonplace. Taking his work with the Tigers as a criterion, we doubt if Tyrus Raymond's association with the Yanks would make them a well balanced team.

Big Regatta Brings Debate In the Rowing Colleges

St. Paul's Five Scores Victory Over Montclair

By Edward R. Bushnell

The suggestion made recently in these columns that the Poughkeepsie Regatta be abandoned permanently, and some other regatta in which the competing universities might row on home waters and within term-time substituted, has aroused an unusual warm discussion.

Columbia University authorities are out with a statement that they want to stick to the Poughkeepsie race, particularly after conditions become normal. Cornell has seized upon the suggestion to hope that the competing crews will row on Lake Cayuga, Princeton, it is understood, would much like to have this or some similar regatta rowed on Lake Carnegie, while Pennsylvania would like to see the race on the Schuylkill River, provided the Poughkeepsie course is given up.

Suggestion Quoted Frequently

This suggestion has been quoted so widely that several institutions have got the idea that it was proposed either by Pennsylvania or Cornell. As a matter of fact, no university fathered the idea. It was suggested merely as a reform, which the writer believed to be essential to the salvation of rowing.

The idea which some of the advocates of the Poughkeepsie course have that interest in college rowing would rapidly decline if the Poughkeepsie regatta were abandoned is, of course, entirely unfounded. The point which should be kept in mind is that the Poughkeepsie regatta is an extravaganza. Because of the rough water and the tide it is impossible to hold it without allowing the competing crews from ten days to two weeks in which to train over the course. It is also impossible to hold the regatta within term time, a factor which adds several thousand dollars to the expense of rowing at all the universities involved.

The twin evils of its great expense and holding the regatta after the close of the college year, when it is virtually impossible for the students to see their crews compete, could be eliminated by abandoning the Poughkeepsie regatta altogether and either holding it on some smooth or centrally located body of water, which would not require any preliminary practice, or by letting the regatta rotate over the home courses of the various universities.

Cornell Has Splendid Course

Cornell, for example, has a splendid course on Lake Cayuga; so has Pennsylvania in the Schuylkill River, and likewise Princeton in Lake Carnegie. Cornell came to the rescue of the association a few years ago with the offer of its course when the stewards feared the regatta was to be postponed. Hudson, Princeton, to be sure, is not a member of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association, but there is no doubt that if the regatta were held and managed along the lines suggested, the Tigers would be represented every year with a crew.

Moreover, it is very rare that satisfactory conditions are found at Poughkeepsie. In selecting the date the stewards cannot consult their own wishes. They have to suit themselves to the tide and the willingness of the railroad to run excursions. Very frequently the regatta has to be postponed one or two days on account of unfavorable conditions of wind and tide. And about half the time the important "varsity eight-oared event is rowed in the gathering darkness, so that it is virtually impossible for the spectators on the observation train to distinguish the different crews.

What could be more ridiculous than to oppose a reform that would accomplish so many desirable things? First of all, it would cut the cost of rowing practically in two, would permit the regatta to rotate between the competing colleges, would be held on home waters within term-time. All these reforms would undoubtedly result in greatly increased interest in college rowing. The benefit to the sport would be to make it available for a full year, instead of the present season, so that it would be worth while if it did nothing more than to bring Princeton into the association.

As conditions now stand the Tigers maintain rowing, but they do not compete either at Poughkeepsie or New London because they cannot accept the conditions under which these regattas are held. The permanent abandonment of the Poughkeepsie regatta, with its long train of unnecessary expenses, its inaccessibility, its crowded and uncomfortable feature, should be made without delay.

Each Brave Must Carry Two Grips

The Boston Nationals in their tour over the circuit during the coming season will be obliged to carry two grips, instead of a single one, as in the past. This decision of the club management to have each man carry his own uniform and favorite bats is made to avoid the possibility of delays in the transportation of baggage.

In these days of increased traffic and war-time measures the congestion of baggage at all of the large cities has become a serious problem, and the fact of the ball players to receive their uniform trunks in time would be annoying to them and decidedly expensive to the club if any games had been cancelled because of the non-arrival of the players by paraphernalia.

An order already has been placed by Business Manager Hagood for thirty individual grips and bat cases. They are to be custom-made and will be just large enough to accommodate a man's uniform, his shoes, sweaters, gloves, etc. Skeleton steel cases will be covered with khaki in the club's colors, with each grip inscribed "Boston Braves" and the name of the individual owner. The grips will be taken into the sleeping cars by the players, and the custom of having each player carry his own baggage is a step back toward "the good old days."

English Soccer Expert Urges Work for Players

David Wilson, one of the famous soccer players of England, now a member of the Oldham eleven, says regarding the kicking style of football, which has met with its greatest setback this season in this country because of the severe cold weather, "I firmly believe in football players having something else to do; otherwise they have too much spare time on their hands."

Taking of the game in England, he continues, "I think it will come to pass after the war that players will have to work. The old times have gone forever in that respect. A light employment, in my opinion, takes a man's mind away from football."

Futurity Race at Fair May Be Called Off

Because so many horse loving farmers' boys of the Genesee Valley, in western New York, have gone to war, the Jockey Club has been compelled to ask the New York State Fair Commission to postpone all further competitions for the Futurity prize until after the war.

It is a purse of \$100 given annually for the best yearling colts by thoroughbred sires exhibited at the September Fair in Syracuse.

The snowbound golfer doesn't get any great satisfaction from hearing that Gil Nicholls is averaging 280 yards on his drives down in sunny Florida.

For a worthy cause the Athletics are going to play a benefit game next summer. The next thing in order is for some one to play a benefit game for the Athletics.